

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR, US

SUBJECT: ASTP FLIGHT

REF: MOSCOW 8917

1. DIRECTOR OF MFA USA DIVISION KORNIYENKO CALLED ME IN TODAY TO NOTIFY ME OFFICIALLY THAT MRS. STOESSEL AND I AND ONE OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIAL WOULD BE INVITED TO LAUNCHING OF ASTP AT BAIKONOUR. I INFORMED HIM WE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY SCIENTIFIC COUNSLEOR LOEBNER. KORNIYNEKO SAID WE WOULD BE TRAVELLING ON SPECIAL PLANE DEPARTING HERE EARLY MORNING AUGUST 15 AND RETURNING MOSCOW SAME EVENING.

2. KORNIYENKO THEN PROPOSED OFFICIALLY THAT AFTER A SUITABLE TIMEFRAME EXCHANGE OF VISIT TO U.S. AND USSR BETWEEN CREWS OF ASTP SHOULD TAKE PLACE (REFTEL). HE SUGGESTED THAT SOVIET CREW ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES SOME TIME AFTER MID-AUGUST AND THAT U.S. CREW VISIT HERE IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS THOUGHT VISIT SHOULD LAST FROM 10 DAYS TO TWO WEEKS AND SHOULD EMCOMPASS SEVERAL CIIES.

3. I REPLIED THAT WE ALSO THOUGHT THIS A GOOD IDEA AND SUGGESTED THAT EACH CREW SHOULD HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PRESS AND PUBLIC DURING PROPOSED VISITS. WE AGREED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY
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BE SUITABLE FOR EACH CREW TO HOST THE OTHER IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY

AND THAT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCES AT THE END OF EACH VISIT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

4. COMMENT: SCIENCE COUNSELOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS TOLD BY BERESHCHETIN OF INTERCOSMOS THIS AFTERNOON THAT THEIR THINKING RE SEQUENCE OF VISIT WAS STILL FLUID AND THAT THEY MAY DESIRE U.S. CREW TO VISIT USSR IN AUGUST AND SOVIET CREW TO VISIT U.S. IN SEPTEMBER.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS RE ARRANGEMENTS SUGGESTED ABOVE, PARTICULARLY AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE ANY PREFERENCE RE TIMING U.S. CREW VISIT HERE. OUR OWN MARGINAL PREFERENCE, BECAUSE AUGUST IS SLOW MONTH IN USSR, WOULD BE FOR ASTRONAUTS TO VISIT SOVIET UNION IN SEPTEMBER.
STOESSEL

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